

Record Weather 88 Years



Comparing Salt Lake City weather with that in Heber is Lindsay W. Crook, third generation weather recorder to supply Utah with a valuable climate history. His grandfather was a first Heber pioneer.

1859 WAS RUGGED

Indians and Hoppers Made Life Strenuous at Heber

Tribune Special

HEBER.—"The Indians rode down from the mountains today and raided stock for the first time . . . and grasshoppers are moving in; I think we'll have a tough summer to look forward to."

Written in longhand on faded newspaper, this sentence and many others have become a treasured record of Heber's growth since May 1, 1859, when John Crook and 10 other pioneers first moved in from Provo City and began a daily log on happenings.

In addition to straightforward items about personal life, John Crook also faithfully recorded Heber weather until he was 80 years old—then made it a point to hand the job down through three generations—until grandson Lindsay W. Crook last week went to the Salt Lake weather station to look over his family records.

Volunteer Task

A non-paying volunteer job, keeping weather records for Heber has been "sort of a family affair," according to Mr. Crook, who received the position from an uncle, Heber G. Crook, on April 16, 1939. The Heber cooperative at that time had been officially recognized since 1893.

Now a part of weather station files, the original Crook journal shows that the settling of Heber was far from an easy undertaking.

"We had no thermometer," he had written, "but took weather as it came, and managed to harvest 1000 bushels of grain on Sept. 4 of that first year. It snowed until May in that year," he added.

Following the initial Blackhawk raid on stock which completely ruined some of the settlers, Mr. Crook wrote, Col. R. T. Burton arrived from Salt Lake City to help organize the militia. On Aug. 11, 1853, however, Chief Tabby arrived in Heber with a party of braves, "talked business," and promised to convince Blackhawk to keep away.

"We all smoked a peace pipe," Mr. Crook noted, but added, "a few of the braves got pretty mad when we ran out of tobacco."

Fight Grasshoppers

When Indian raiding parties moved into southern counties, another war with grasshoppers followed in June, 1867, according to the journal. The pioneers fought them with brush fires and water-filled trenches around the grain fields, but lost much in produce because of it.

Lindsay W. Crook recalls that as a child he helped his uncle keep weather records, while grandfather Crook worked on the journal, finally completing it before he died.

One of an 11-child family, Lindsay W. Crook has no son to "take over" the weather task when he retires, but indicated that he would turn it over to one of eight brothers who will "take it from there, and keep it in the Crook family."

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